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T 1232-4253

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NEW YORK NY 10154

LM11/9401

EXAMINER

SRIVASTAVA, V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2711

8

DATE MAILED:

04/01/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/23/97

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449. Paper No(s) 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

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DETAILED ACTION

Allowability of all claims in the previous office action have been withdrawn. Please find new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 3, and 5-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan.

Considering claim 3, Morgan disclose the claimed camera control system for selecting at least one of a plurality of controllable cameras connected to a network, and for controlling video display, comprising camera-status display means for real-time displaying statuses of at least two of the cameras, wherein said camera-status display means displays connection and disconnection of the cameras to the network, and start and end of use, parameters and available or unavailable status of one connected camera (col 2 lines 6-38 and col 3 lines 1-58, if camera indication is not on then camera is disconnected to the network, not in use, and unavailable).

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Considering claim 5, Morgan inherently discloses the claimed wherein said camera-status display means displays a pan angle by a direction of camera (since camera has panning function, and display shows the field of view, the camera inherently displays the pan angle).

Considering claim 6, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein if registration of a new camera is informed on the system, the symbol display means displays a camera symbol of the new camera on the layout, while if cameras disconnected, said layout display means deletes the camera symbol of the camera on the layout (fig 2, camera 62 is on and on layout, camera 72 is disconnected and the “cam” symbol is not displayed).

Considering claim 7, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein said symbol-displays a symbol of an unavailable camera so as to indicate response less status (fig 2, camera 72 shows “off” status indicating the camera is response less).

Considering claim 8, Morgan discloses the claimed camera control means and management means wherein control means notifies management means of the statuses of the camera (col 3 lines 20-58).

Considering claim 9, Morgan inherently discloses that wherein the camera control means notifies the statuses of the cameras in accordance with instruction from said management means (when management means turns on camera, the camera control means notifies the status of the camera on the display).

Considering claim 10, see claim 9.

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Considering claim 11, Morgan discloses all the claimed subject matter, 1) the claimed a camera control system for selecting at least one of a plurality of controllable camera apparatuses connected to a network and being capable of controlling video display and camera of the selected camera apparatus by a plurality of control terminals (col 3 lines 20-58), 2) the claimed layout means (fig 2), 3) the claimed symbol display means (fig 2), 4) the claimed setting means (col 3 lines 20-58), 5) the claimed storage means is inherently included in the processor (fig 1 item 20, col 3 lines 20-68, col 4 lines 1-53).

Considering claim 12, Morgan discloses all the claimed subject matter, note the claimed wherein said setting means is capable of setting addition or deletion of the camera symbols on the basis of addition or deletion of the camera apparatuses (when camera is turned on (added) or turned off (deleted) setting means displays status symbols).

Considering claim 13, Morgan inherently discloses the claimed further comprising layout-information change means for changing the layout displayed on the layout-display means on the basis of change of layout of the physical area (when a different physical area layout is viewed, the setting means would display a different layout, col 4 lines 66-68, col 5 lines 1-10).

Considering claim 14, Morgan inherently discloses wherein layout information change means adds and deletes the layout displayed on the layout-display means.

Considering claim 15, Morgan discloses of the claimed output means for outputting the information of initial statuses of camera symbols stored by the storage means to the plurality of control terminals wherein symbol display means changes the camera symbols according to

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operations of the control terminals on the basis of the information of initial statuses of camera symbols output by the output means (col 3 lines 20-68, col 4 lines 1-53).

Considering claim 16, Morgan discloses the claimed layout display means, the claimed symbol display means, wherein the symbol display means displays one or more current statuses of predetermined features of the cameras with the camera symbols (fig 2).

Considering claim 17, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein setting means is capable of setting change of the camera symbols on the basis of a setting position and the initial status of the camera apparatus (col 4 lines 23-68, col 5 lines 1-48).

Considering claim 18, Morgan discloses the claimed a camera control system for selecting one of a plurality of controllable camera apparatuses connected to a network, and for controlling video display and a camera, comprising camera-status display means for real-time displaying statuses of at least two of the camera apparatuses, wherein the camera-status display statuses of connection of the camera and the network (col 2 lines 6-38 and col 3 lines 1-58).

Considering claim 19, Morgan discloses the claimed wherein camera-status display means further displays starting and ending of operation of the camera apparatuses connected to the network (fig 2, camera starting is displayed by symbols 62 and 64, ending operation is displayed by symbol 72).

Considering claim 20, Morgan discloses the claimed a camera control system for selecting one of a plurality of controllable camera apparatuses connected to a network, and for controlling video display and a camera, comprising camera status display means for real-time displaying

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statuses of at least two of the camera apparatuses, wherein the camera-status display means display parameters of the camera apparatuses (fig 2, col 4 lines 46-68, col 5 lines 1-48).

Considering claim 21, see claim 19.

Considering claim 22, Morgan discloses the claimed a camera control system for selecting one of a plurality of controllable camera apparatuses connected to a network, and for controlling video display and a camera, comprising camera status display means for real-time displaying statuses of at least two of the camera apparatuses, wherein the camera-status display means display using-status of the camera apparatus connected to the network (fig 2, col 4 lines 46-68, col 5 lines 1-48).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan.

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Considering claim 4, Morgan discloses of a monitoring location which displays layout of cameras wherein an operator knows a camera is in use because of the “on” and field of view triangle shown in figure 2. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that a plurality of monitoring stations would have provided added security and added convenience to the monitoring system, and it would have been obvious to use a “on” symbol in a different color to let the user know that a particular camera is being controlled from another location. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the invention of Morgan to include a plurality of display stations because added security and convenience to the monitoring system would have expected, and it would have been obvious to display a camera operated in another location by another user in different color because it would have informed a user that a camera is operated by another user in another location and a more efficient and secure monitoring system would have been expected.

Considering claim 23, please refer to claim 4 above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 1) Lang - Remote Video Viewing And Recording System For Remotely Occurring Events
- 2) Washing - Personal-Computer-Based Video Production System

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- 3) Diner - Adjustable Control Station With Movable Monitors And Cameras For Viewing Systems In Robotics And Teleoperations
- 4) Thompson - Synchronization Of Vertical Phase Of The Video Signals In A Video System
- 5) Cortjens et al. - Method For Automatically Adjusting The Pan And Tilt Of A Video Conferencing System Camera

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305 - 5399 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner
should be directed to Vivek Srivastava whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 4038. The

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examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Powell, can be reached at (703) 305 - 9703.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 3900.



VS 3/27/98



MARK R. POWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700